

Re: Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules

I am writing to encourage you not to change current media ownership rules. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry. Weakening these rules would result in more consolidation of ownership of media and less diversity (regardless of the variety of formats the few owners might use to present their few viewpoints).

Effective Democracy requires an open marketplace of ideas so that citizens have access to all the information they need in order to make sound decisions about their day to day lives and their government. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

The FCC should hearings around the nation to solicit broad input from the public on these decisions. The airwaves belong to the public and their use is supposed to serve the public interest, not corporate interest; the public should be consulted about what is in its best interest.

The Commission has a responsibility to review these issues more thoroughly and to allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

Margaret Schehl